

REMARKS

This Reply and Amendment is intended to be completely responsive to the non-final Office Action. Claims 1-15 and 18-38 are pending in this Application. Claims 1-9, 11-15 and 20-38 stand rejected. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10-12, 19, 23, 27-33 and 35-36 have been amended. Claims 15-18 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice to future prosecution on the merits.

Allowable Subject Matter

In Section 13 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner stated “Claims 10, 18 and 19 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.”

Dependent Claim 18 is based on intervening dependent Claim 15 and base independent Claim 1. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter recited in dependent Claim 18 and intervening dependent Claim 15. Original dependent Claims 15 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice to further prosecution. Dependent Claim 19 has been amended to depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended).

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 (as amended) is now in condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 2-14, 19-23 and 25-26 depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended). The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-14, 19-23 and 25-26.

Drawing Objections – 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a)

In Section 1 of the Detailed Action the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because the “drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.”

The Applicant has amended dependent Claims 3, 10-12, 19, 23, 30 and 35 to recite subject matter shown in the drawings and has canceled Claim 24 without prejudice to

expedite issuance of allowable subject matter. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue patentability of the subject matter of original dependent Claims 3, 10-12, 19, 23-24, 30 and 35 in future proceedings.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the drawings has been overcome, and requests withdrawal of the objection under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a).

Claim Objections

In Section 2 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner objected to independent Claim 1. The Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to recite “to be coupled to.”

The Applicant believes that the objection to independent Claim 1 has been overcome and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2

In Section 4 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected dependent Claim 8 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2. The Applicant has amended dependent Claim 8 to recite “a usage position and a stowed position.” Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2 has been overcome and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of dependent Claim 8.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In Sections 6 through 10 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 27, 31 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of one or more of the following references:

U.S. Patent No. D298,8884 issued to Rychlock (“Rychlock”). Rychlock discloses the ornamental appearance for a “portable auto table” that appears to have a pivotable table section that is not vertically adjustable.

U.S. Patent No. 5,953,999 issued to Kanehl (“Kanehl”). Kanehl discloses a “removable tray assembly for a vehicle” having a “hook to mount the assembly atop a portion

of a vehicle, e.g., the vehicle door 20, the steering wheel [120] and/or the seat back” (see col. 3, lines 64-65).

U.S. Patent No. 6,047,870 issued to Morford (“Morford”). Morford discloses a “vehicle mounted locking firearm support” which provides a “firearm support rack 2 ... secured to a vehicle frame, i.e. the ceiling 5” by a pair of “plates 40, 41 to receive fasteners 43 which secure the plates 40, 41 to the rack 2 and to adjoining portions of the vehicle framing” (see col. 2, lines 61-64 and col. 3, lines 62-64).

U.S. Patent No. 5,542,589 issued to McKee (“McKee”). McKee discloses a “desk structure for vehicles” that is attached to a vehicle seat by a “vehicular center seat or safety belt” that “engages the desk structure 5 through a slotted latch means 72” or a “slotted D-ring” of a “pair of slot like openings 80a and 80b” (see col. 5, lines 12-15, 21 and 30-31).

U.S. Patent No. 5,931,527 issued to D’Onofrio et al. (“D’Onofrio et al.”). D’Onofrio et al. discloses a “seat back mounted cargo shelf” where the shelf “unit 12 is self contained and readily fits into the back of a vehicle seat 14” so that “the unit is retained against the frame 22 of the seat 14” (see col. 3, lines 52-54).

Independent Claim 1

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable and believed by the Applicant to be patentable in view of the cited references. Dependent Claims 2-14, 19-23 and 25-26 depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended). Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-14, 19-23 and 25-26.

Independent Claim 27

Independent Claim 27 has been amended to recite a “cargo management system” comprising a combination of subject matter including, among others, “at least one support column having a first end configured for coupling to an interior overhead portion of the vehicle and a second end configured for coupling to a floor portion of the vehicle.” None of

the cited references, alone or in any proper combination, disclose, teach or suggest a “cargo management system” as required by independent Claim 27 (as amended). Dependent Claims 28-30 depend from independent Claim 27 (as amended). Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 27-30.

Independent Claim 31

Independent Claim 31 has been amended to recite a “kit for a storage system” comprising a combination of subject matter including, among others, “at least one support member having connectors adapted to be coupled to a lower portion and an upper portion of the vehicle interior.” None of the cited references, alone or in any proper combination, disclose, teach or suggest a “kit for a storage system” as required by independent Claim 31 (as amended). Dependent Claims 32-35 depend from independent Claim 31 (as amended). Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 31-35.

Independent Claim 36

Independent Claim 36 has been amended to recite a “method for providing a cargo storage system” comprising a combination of subject matter including, among others, “providing a lockable positioning device comprising pivotable arms coupled to the support member and the cargo holder for selectively positioning the cargo holder in a use position and a stowed position.” None of the cited references, alone or in any proper combination, disclose, teach or suggest a “method for providing a cargo storage system” as required by independent Claim 36 (as amended). Dependent Claims 37-38 depend from independent Claim 36 (as amended). Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 36-38.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In Section 12 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner rejected dependent Claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenehl and Watkins.

U.S. Patent No. 6,116,485 issued to Watkins (“Watkins”). Watkins discloses a “camera mount” with a “camera mount bar 10 [that] comprises an elongate rigid angle member 12” and a “bracket 90 connects the elongate member 12 to headrest supports 92 in a seat back 94” (see col. 3, lines 33-34 and col. 4, lines 27-28).

Dependent Claims 11 and 12 depend from independent Claim 1 (as amended). Independent Claim 1 now recites a combination of subject matter that the Applicant believes is patentable in view of the cited references. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been overcome and requests reconsideration and allowance of dependent Claims 11 and 12.

The Applicant respectfully submits that each and every outstanding objection and rejection to the pending claims has been overcome, and the Application is in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10-12, 19, 23, 27-33 and 35-36 have been amended. Claims 15-18 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice to future prosecution on the merits. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-14, 19-23 and 25-38 that are now pending.

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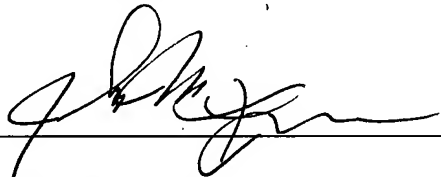
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this Application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, the Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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